

What is claimed is:

1. An electronic wallet management system  
5 which manages an electronic wallet devices holding  
monetary data, comprising:

backup condition testing means for testing  
predefined backup conditions to determine whether to make  
a backup, when the electronic wallet device communicates  
10 with any other device to transfer monetary data;

backup data sending means for sending out a  
predetermined set of backup data collected from the  
electronic wallet device, when said backup condition  
testing means has determined to make a backup; and

15 backup data management means for receiving the  
backup data from said backup data sending means and saving  
the received backup data into a backup database.

2. The electronic wallet management system  
20 according to claim 1, wherein:

the predefined backup conditions include a  
condition about the number of monetary data transfers; and  
said backup condition testing means determines to  
make a backup if the number of monetary data transfers has  
25 reached the number specified in the condition.

3. The electronic wallet management system

according to claim 1, wherein:

the predetermined backup conditions include a condition about a time interval of backup operations; and

5 said backup condition testing means determines to make a backup if the elapsed time since the last backup operation exceeds the time interval.

4. The electronic wallet management system according to claim 1, wherein:

10 the predetermined backup conditions include a condition about an account to/from which the monetary data may be transferred; and

said backup condition testing means determines to make a backup if the monetary data is to be transferred 15 to/from the account specified in the condition.

5. The electronic wallet management system according to claim 1, wherein:

the predetermined backup conditions include a 20 condition about the amount of money to be transferred; and

said backup condition testing means determines to make a backup if the monetary data to be transferred exceeds the amount specified in the condition.

25 6. The electronic wallet management system according to claim 1, further comprising:

receiving means for receiving an accident report

concerning an electronic wallet device; and temporary electronic wallet issuing means, responsive to the accident report received by said receiving means, for calculating elapsed time between the 5 last backup operation and the reception of the accident report, and issuing a temporary electronic wallet device with a limited valid period and a credit limit that is determined according to the elapsed time.

10           7.       An electronic wallet management system which manages an electronic wallet devices holding monetary data, comprising:

receiving means for receiving an accident report concerning an electronic wallet device; and

15           temporary electronic wallet issuing means, responsive to the accident report received by said receiving means, for calculating elapsed time between the last backup operation and the reception of the accident report, and issuing a temporary electronic wallet device 20 that can be used within a limited valid period and a credit limit determined according to the elapsed time.

8.       The electronic wallet management system according to claim 7, further comprising reclaiming means 25 for reclaiming the electronic wallet device when the accident report received by said receiving means describes that the electronic wallet device was broken down.

9. An electronic wallet management system which manages an electronic wallet devices holding monetary data, comprising:

5 receiving means for receiving a reissuance application for an electronic wallet device;

temporary electronic wallet device reclaiming means for trapping a temporary electronic wallet device with a limited valid period which is inserted thereto in  
10 response to the reissuance application received by said receiving means; and

electronic wallet device issuing means for issuing a new electronic wallet device after the temporary electronic wallet device has been trapped by said  
15 temporary electronic wallet device reclaiming means.

10. The electronic wallet management system according to claim 9, further comprising balance obtaining means for obtaining the amount of funds remaining in the  
20 trapped temporary electronic wallet device,

wherein said electronic wallet device issuing means issues the electronic wallet device after transferring the obtained amount thereto.

25 11. An electronic wallet management system which manages an electronic wallet devices holding monetary data, comprising:

issuance setup checking means for checking whether the system is ready for issuance of an electronic wallet device, when a temporary electronic wallet device with a limited valid period is inserted thereto;

- 5           temporary electronic wallet device reclaiming means for trapping the inserted temporary electronic wallet device when said issuance setup checking means has determined that the system is ready for issuance; and
- electronic wallet device issuing means for issuing
- 10          an electronic wallet device after the temporary electronic wallet device has been trapped by said temporary electronic wallet device reclaiming means.

12.       An electronic wallet device which
- 15          transfers monetary data, comprising:

              backup condition testing means for testing predefined backup conditions to determine whether to make a backup, when the electronic wallet device communicates with any other device to transfer monetary data; and

- 20          backup data sending means for sending out a predetermined set of backup data collected from the electronic wallet device, when said backup condition testing means has determined to make a backup.

- 25          13.       The electronic wallet device according to  
              claim 12, wherein:

              the predefined backup conditions include a

condition about the number of monetary data transfers; and  
said backup condition testing means determines to  
make a backup if the number of monetary data transfers has  
reached the number specified in the condition.

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14. The electronic wallet device according to  
claim 12, wherein:

the predetermined backup conditions include a  
condition about a time interval of backup operations; and

10 said backup condition testing means determines to  
make a backup if the elapsed time since the last backup  
operation exceeds the time interval.

15. The electronic wallet device according to  
15 claim 12, wherein:

the predetermined backup conditions include a  
condition about an account to/from which the monetary data  
may be transferred; and

20 said backup condition testing means determines to  
make a backup if the monetary data is to be transferred  
to/from the account specified in the condition.

16. The electronic wallet device according to  
claim 12, wherein:

25 the predetermined backup conditions include a  
condition about the amount of money to be transferred; and  
said backup condition testing means determines to

make a backup if the monetary data to be transferred exceeds the amount specified in the condition.

17. An electronic wallet management unit which  
5 manages an electronic wallet device, comprising:

receiving means for receiving an accident report received from a terminal station, the accident report being related to an electronic wallet device that has been issued; and

10 temporary electronic wallet data producing means, responsive to the accident report, for calculating elapsed time between the last backup operation for the issued electronic wallet device and the reception of the accident report, compiling temporary electronic wallet data having  
15 a limited valid period and a credit limit that is determined according to the elapsed time, and sending the temporary electronic wallet data back to the terminal station.

20 18. A terminal station coupled to an electronic wallet management unit which provides temporary electronic wallet data in response to an accident report, comprising:

medium storage means for storing a plurality of  
25 temporary electronic wallet devices in stock for future issuance;

receiving means for receiving the accident report

concerning an electronic wallet device;

transmission means for forwarding the received accident report to the electronic wallet management unit;

temporary electronic wallet data writing means for 5 writing the temporary electronic wallet data to a memory of one of the temporary electronic wallet devices stored in the medium storage means, the temporary electronic wallet data being supplied from the electronic wallet management unit in response to the forwarded accident 10 report; and

temporary electronic wallet device releasing means for releasing the temporary electronic wallet device containing the temporary electronic wallet data.

15           19.       A terminal station coupled to an electronic wallet management unit which provides electronic wallet data in response to a reissuance application, comprising:

medium storage means for storing a plurality of 20 temporary electronic wallet devices in stock for future issuance;

receiving means for receiving the reissuance application that requests reissuance of an electronic wallet device;

25           transmission means for forwarding the received reissuance application to the electronic wallet management unit;

electronic wallet data writing means for writing the electronic wallet data to a memory of one of the electronic wallet devices stored in the medium storage means, the electronic wallet data being supplied from the  
5 electronic wallet management unit in response to the forwarded accident report; and

temporary electronic wallet device reclaiming means for trapping a temporary electronic wallet device which is inserted thereto; and

10 electronic wallet device releasing means for releasing the electronic wallet device containing the electronic wallet data in exchange for the temporary electronic wallet device trapped by the temporary electronic wallet device reclaiming means.

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20. A terminal station coupled to an electronic wallet management unit that provides electronic wallet data in response to an issuance setup confirmation request when an electronic wallet device can be readily issued, comprising:

medium storage means for storing a plurality of temporary electronic wallet devices in stock for future issuance;

transmission means for transmitting the issuance  
25 setup confirmation request to the electronic wallet management unit when a temporary electronic wallet device is inserted;

electronic wallet data writing means for writing the electronic wallet data to a memory of one of the electronic wallet devices stored in the medium storage means, the electronic wallet data being supplied from the  
5 electronic wallet management unit in response to the issuance setup confirmation request; and

temporary electronic wallet device reclaiming means for trapping the inserted temporary electronic wallet device when the electronic wallet data is sent from  
10 the electronic wallet management unit in response to the issuance setup confirmation request; and

electronic wallet device releasing means for releasing the electronic wallet device containing the electronic wallet data in exchange for the temporary  
15 electronic wallet device trapped by the temporary electronic wallet device reclaiming means.

21. A computer-readable medium storing an electronic wallet management program which manages an  
20 electronic wallet device holding monetary data, the program causing a computer to function as:

backup condition testing means for testing predefined backup conditions to determine whether to make a backup, when the electronic wallet device communicates  
25 with any other device to transfer monetary data;

backup data sending means for sending out a predetermined set of backup data collected from the

electronic wallet device, when said backup condition testing means has determined to make a backup; and

5           backup data management means for receiving the backup data from said backup data sending means and saving  
the received backup data into a backup database.

22.       A computer-readable medium storing an electronic wallet management program which manages an electronic wallet device holding monetary data, the  
10 program causing a computer to function as:

receiving means for receiving an accident report concerning an electronic wallet device;

15       temporary electronic wallet issuing means for issuing a temporary electronic wallet device with a limited valid period in response to the received accident report;

temporary electronic wallet device reclaiming means for trapping the temporary electronic wallet device which is inserted thereto; and

20       electronic wallet device reissuing means, responsive to a reissuance application that requests reissuance of a new electronic wallet device, for reissuing the new electronic wallet device after confirming that the temporary electronic wallet device has  
25 been trapped by the temporary electronic wallet device reclaiming means.

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23. A computer-readable medium storing an electronic wallet management program which controls a terminal station coupled to an electronic wallet management unit which provides temporary electronic wallet data in response to an accident report, the program causing a computer to function as:

receiving means for receiving the accident report concerning an electronic wallet device;

transmission means for forwarding the received accident report to the electronic wallet management unit;

temporary electronic wallet data writing means for writing the temporary electronic wallet data to a memory of one of the temporary electronic wallet devices stored in the medium storage means, the temporary electronic wallet data being supplied from the electronic wallet management unit in response to the forwarded accident report; and

temporary electronic wallet device releasing means for releasing the temporary electronic wallet device containing the temporary electronic wallet data.

24. A computer-readable medium storing an electronic wallet management program which controls a terminal station coupled to an electronic wallet management unit which provides electronic wallet data in response to a reissuance request, the program causing a computer to function as:

receiving means for receiving the reissuance application that requests reissuance of an electronic wallet device;

transmission means for forwarding the received  
5 reissuance application to the electronic wallet management unit;

electronic wallet data writing means for writing the electronic wallet data to a memory of one of the electronic wallet devices stored in the medium storage  
10 means, the electronic wallet data being supplied from the electronic wallet management unit in response to the forwarded accident report; and

temporary electronic wallet device reclaiming means for trapping a temporary electronic wallet device  
15 which is inserted thereto; and

electronic wallet device releasing means for releasing the electronic wallet device containing the electronic wallet data in exchange for the temporary electronic wallet device trapped by the temporary  
20 electronic wallet device reclaiming means.

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